

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SAA-01 SES-02 SSM-03 TRSE-00  
OMB-01 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
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R 171430Z AUG 78  
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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: LE SY PEPR PINS PINT  
SUBJ: VISIT OF AL-HOSS TO SYRIA

1. SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER AL-HOSS MET WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT HAFIZ AL-ASSAD IN LATAKIA ON AUGUST 14-15. PRIME MINISTER AL-HOSS, WHILE CALLING THE TALKS FRUITFUL, AVOIDED PUBLICLY DISCUSSING THEIR DETAILS, THUS SUGGESTING LITTLE HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM, WHILE ALSO PUBLICLY AVOIDING DETAILS, WAS CITED BY ONE BEIRUT NEWSPAPER AS SAYING THE PALESTINIANS WOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM ANY NATIONWIDE PLAN OF DISARMAMENT. HIS REPORTED ASSERTION WILL ONLY INCREASE THE CHRISTIAN DISTRUST OF SYRIAN MOTIVES. END SUMMARY.

2. PRIME MINISTER SALIM AL-HOSS MET IN LATAKIA ON AUGUST 14-15 WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT HAFIZ AL-ASSAD, SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM AND OTHER SYRIAN OFFICIALS. ALTHOUGH PRIME MINISTER AL-HOSS AFTER HIS RETURN CALLED THE TALKS "VERY BENEFICIAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

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FRUITFUL", HE AVOIDED DISCUSSING DETAILS OF THE TALKS AND TOLD LEBANESE REPORTERS ONLY THAT:

--"THE VISIT MAY WELL PRODUCE SPECIFIC RESULTS WHICH WE HOPE WILL YIELD FRUIT IN THE NEAR FUTURE."

--"CERTAIN ARRANGEMENTS AND MEASURES MUST BE UNDERTAKEN

IN THE FUTURE, BUT THE RESULTS MAY TAKE SOME TIME TO BECOME  
VISIBLE."

3. ACCORDING TO AN NAHAR, THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT AGREED TO  
UNDERTAKE THE NECESSARY FORMALITIES TO ASK FOR RENEWAL OF THE  
ADF MANDATE, WHILE SYRIAN OFFICIALS EMPHASIZED THAT A BROAD  
POLITICAL SOLUTION WAS NECESSARY FOR LEBANON BEFORE THERE COULD  
BE A DURABLE IMPROVEMENT IN THE SECURITY SITUATION. RIGHTIST  
AL-BAYRAQ INDICATED THAT SYRIA HAD DEMANDED REBUILDING OF THE  
LEBANESE ARMY ON A MORE EQUITABLE BASIS AND THE FORMULATION  
OF A NEW LEBANESE ELECTION LAW.

4. AS REPORTED BY THE BEIRUT PRESS, SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER  
KHADDAM ALSO REFUSED TO DISCUSS DETAILS BUT DID SAY:

-- "THE QUESTION OF PULLING THE ARAB DETERRENT FORCES OUT OF  
BEIRUT AND DECLARING THE CAPITAL AN OPEN CITY WAS NOT DISCUSSED.  
THERE IS NO QUESTION OF AN 'OPEN BEIRUT' OR A 'CLOSED BEIRUT'.  
WHAT IS REQUIRED IS A COMPREHENSIVE ACTION TO DEAL WITH THE  
SITUATION ALL OVER LEBANON WITH ARMED MEN IN BEIRUT AND OUTSIDE."

5. IKE INTERPRETED KHADDAM'S STATEMENT AS A CALL FOR NATION-  
WIDE DISARMAMENT. IKE SAID THAT KHADDAM EXCULDED THE PALESTINIANS  
FROM SUCH DISARMAMENT SINCE THEY HAD "SPECIAL STATUS." IKE ALSO  
QUOTED KHADDAM AS SAYING: "THERE ARE AGREEMENTS GOVERNING  
LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS AND THE STATUS OF THE PALESTINIANS  
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MUST BE VIEWED FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE."

6. COMMENTS:

A. AL HOSS' VAGUE STATEMENT SUGGEST TO US THAT LITTLE WAS  
ACCOMPLISHED DURING HIS VISIT TO LATAKIA. (JUST AS LITTLE WAS  
APPARENTLY ACCOMPLISHED WHEN KHADDAM MET SARKIS IN BEIRUT ON  
AUGUST 3.) PRESIDENTIAL CHIEF OF PROTOCOL KHALIL HADDAD TOLD  
EMBOFF AS MUCH ON AUGUST 16 BY SAYING "NOTHING CONCRETE" HAD COME  
OUT OF AL HOSS'S DISCUSSIONS.

B. KHADDAM'S REPORTED ASSERTION THAT THE PALESTINIANS SHOULD BE  
EXEMPT FROM ANY NATIONWIDE PLAN OF DISARMAMENT WAS ILL-TIMED  
FROM POINT OF VIEW OF LEBANON. THE ISSUE OF PALESTINIAN DISARM-  
AMENT IS A RED FLAG FOR THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS. SUCH ASSERTIONS  
ONLY INCREASE THEIR DISTRUST OF SYRIAN MOTIVES AND MAKE THEM  
MORE DETERMINED THAN EVER NOT TO GIVE UP THEIR ARMS. END COMMENT.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**TAGS:** PEPR, PINS, PINT, LE, SY, (AL-HOSS, SALIM AHMAD)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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